Friends Bulletin

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 7 APRIL, 1972

Actions of Executive Committee

Executive Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting met March 11 and 12 at Berkeley Meetinghouse, opening and closing with silence, holding Clarence Burck in memory and accepting with gratitude the hospitality and other services of Berkeley Friends.

Executive Committee approved:

——That the names of Argenta and Pacific Oaks Schools be removed from the listing of schools under the PYM heading in the Friends World Committee Directory, since Argenta has transferred its membership to Canada Yearly Meeting and Pacific Oaks is no longer under the care of any Friends Meeting or PYM.

——Adding $200 to the PYM Peace Committee budget for travel expenses of Earle Reynolds as the committee's "traveling Friend," accepting "invitations from Monthly Meetings to tell what other Meetings and Friends are doing for peace," according to the committee's minute of Oct. 30, 1971. It was suggested that Earle Reynolds be liberated to talk with Friends about his concerns and that he be open to the leadings and responses of Friends.

——The recommendation of PYM Site Committee 1973 for the use of Francisco Torres, a convention center in Santa Barbara, as the site for PYM sessions August 11-16, 1973.

——The appointments, based on the Nominating Committee report, of Gretchen Tuthill as Chairwoman of the Consultative Committee on Organization (1973) and Bob Schutz as Chairman of the Social Order Committee (1972).

——Recommending to the Nominating Committee the continuation of the Consultative Committee on Organization with two-year term appointments, with half the present members of this committee being continued for one year.

——Recommendation by Walt Raitt that the Nominating Committee be instructed to appoint one person to Friends World Committee who has special interests in the United Nations and can promote these.

——The Clerk's minute for Olive Goodykoontz, who will be in Germany for several months and will attend West Germany Yearly Meeting.

——Selection of Walt Raitt to write the PYM report for the Handbook of the Religious Society of Friends.

——The following persons to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee to Name the Nominating Committee: Walt Raitt (Chairman), Gretchen Rudnick and Esther Richards (subject to her approval) and Beatrice Crouse or Pat Crouse or Francis Dart (alternatives). The committee is to name the person who will serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, name four new members to the Nominating Committee and make its recommendations to the third session of the PYM Representative Committee.

——The following Friends to serve as the Agenda Review Committee: the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk, Chairwoman of the Bulletin Committee, Chairman of Ministry and Oversight, Clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting and Clerk of Young Friends.

——Reminding Regional Meetings to inform the Friends World Committee of all new Meetings to insure recognition.

——August 1 as cut-off date for registration.

——Assignment of specific rooms for Junior Friends.

——That the Education Committee and Marian Sanders, Children's Program Coordinator, meet to work out whatever arrangements would be felt helpful to the Children's Program. Education Committee will make its recommendations to Representative Committee.

——The writing of a letter by the Clerk to Jim Balderson, Clerk of Young Friends, expressing regret that he could not be with us at Executive Committee meeting and asking if it would be helpful for one or two of our members to sit with Young Friends when they plan their Yearly Meeting sessions. Several Friends expressed their concern that we do not have enough meaningful sharing with Young Friends.

Several PYM committees and officers made reports and announcements at the Executive Committee meeting:

EDUCATION COMMITTEE——LaDonna Wallen, Chairwoman, announced that Marian Sanders has been appointed Children's Program Coordina-

tor for a period of three years.

PEACE COMMITTEE--Isaiah Meyer read a letter from Phil Drath, Chairman of Peace Committee, telling of the plans of Earle Reynolds in connection with the "traveling Friend" minute and also of his project to sail the Phoenix from the Bay Area to the Republican Convention in San Diego.

FRIEND–IN–THE–ORIENT COMMITTEE-- Stuart Innerst, Chairman, reported that the Seavers will return in June to report to Monthly Meetings as requested, with Steve Thomas as coordinator of speaking engagements. The Seavers also will report to Yearly Meeting. Two replacements for the Seavers were suggested -- San Dal Cha and Richard and Rose Lewis -- all of whom expect to be in Korea next year. The committee sent out an appeal for relief of the sufferings of the Bangladesh; $400 was sent from PYM. The F–in–O fund received $1,600 this year.

BULLETIN COMMITTEE -- Peggy Spear, Chairwoman, recommended that those Meetings which are not presently collecting money for subscriptions to the Bulletin do so, expressing the committee's concern that all Friends receive the Bulletin and reminding Friends that subscriptions given through the Meeting are tax deductible. The collection and handling of subscriptions through Meetings makes the work of the Bulletin office easier.

BULLETIN EDITOR -- Brent Howell, Editor, asked that all committee chairmen send in their PYM reports intended for the June issue by May 10. If two reports are to be made by a committee, the first should be sent by April 10 for the May issue. Deadline for all material for any issue is the 10th of the month preceding the publication month. He asks chairmen to write him a letter prior to sending a report to inform him of the contents of the report, how long it will be and whether it will be a formal report of committee action.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE -- Shirley Tweed, Assistant Clerk, read a report from Lowell Tozer, Chairman, announcing that the project of revising the Queries is almost completed and that there still remains some work to do on the Advices. The complete draft of the Discipline will be ready by 1973. The committee may publish the Discipline first in mimeographed form so that minor changes can be made easily. The committee also may recommend a change in title from the Discipline to Faith and Practice.

MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT -- Stratton Jaquette, Chairman, reported that an information form has been drawn up by M&O concerning care at time of death, Memorial Meetings, etc., which will be sent to all Meetings. He said the committee wishes to encourage more visitation among Meetings and requested that reports of visitations be sent to him. Response to the Yearly Meeting request by M&O to discuss the subject of homosexuality has resulted in many Monthly and Quarterly Meeting discussions. M&O requests that all Monthly and Quarterly Meetings send them whatever statements have grown out of discussions on homosexuality. However, M&O is not ready presently to make or recommend any statement by the Yearly Meeting. The greatest unity expressed so far is that social, economic and civil rights of homosexuals be not abridged.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE -- Jean Young, Chairwoman, said the committee will ask all chairmen of PYM committees to write a job description for their committees to be used by the Nominating Committee. The committee requested that the Education Committee define its job anew and suggested this might be included in the Discipline.

Walt Raitt, Historian-Archivist, gave the following as functions of the Education Committee in the past: acting as advisory to the Children's Program, serving as means of helping Monthly Meetings with religious education and arranging adult education programs at Yearly Meetings.

TREASURER -- Bob Young, Treasurer, reminded Friends that travel fund requests should be made before the travel takes place. He noted that only $100 has come in for the Friends World Committee and $190 for the scholarship fund.

HISTORIAN-ARCHIVIST -- Walt Raitt requested Quarterly Meeting reports, all previous reports of the Statistical Secretary and the reports of the PYM Chairmen. He also requested copies of PYM incorporation papers and offered to hold Meeting records in the archives for safe keeping.

PANEL -- A report was read of the appointment of Ferner Nuhn to a National Faith and Life Panel which is being formed by the Friends World Committee as a follow-up to the St. Louis Conference of Friends 1970. Aim of the panel is to provide a channel for continuous examination of the issues dividing Friends.

NORTH PACIFIC

The North Pacific Gathering of Friends from Oregon and Pacific Northwest Quarters will be held July 14-17 at St. Martin's College, Olympia, Washington.

ARRANGEMENTS

Much of the discussion and reports at Executive Committee meeting centered directly on the upcoming sessions at St. Mary's College. August 13-17, 1972.

Larry Perry, Arrangements Committee Chairman, requested all PYM chairmen to send information on their space needs and arrangements to him by July 1. He said that St. Mary's people have expressed their happiness at our return.

Responsibilities are divided as follows: Frank Burnham, Registrar; Peggy Lacey, space needs; Bob Burnett, equipment; John Kreiter, camping; Catherine Bruner, art display; Bob Barnes, swimming pool; Frances Woodson and Kris Bradwell, secretariat; Marin Meeting, communications; Hayward Area Meeting, transportation and early hospitality.

Frank Burnham, Registrar, announced there would be no change in rates from last year. Cut-off date for registration (as approved by Executive Committee) will be August 1. Registration forms will be ready for the April Bulletin. Notice of scholarships given by individual Meetings should be sent to Frank Burnham. The registration form itself will have only minor changes.

Marian Sanders, Children's Program Coordinator, explained the program she is developing for integrating the Children's Program with Yearly Meeting. Three areas will be a special focus: the Faith and Practice of Friends, ecology and our relations with China. She asked for the help of all Meetings in recruiting Friends who have interests and skills they are willing to share for a few hours at Yearly Meeting.

Margaret McInnes, Clerk of Junior Friends Yearly Meeting, reported that the focus this year at Yearly Meeting will be on education, using resources from the Yearly Meeting. She said that Junior Friends wish the present ban on alcohol and drugs continued. A letter outlining the Junior Friends program and requirements for participation will be published in the Bulletin.

Margaret said Junior Friends would like a silent Meeting for Worship offered as an alternative to Worship-Fellowship groups and suggested holding Family Night on Wednesday instead of Tuesday.

FRIENDS BULLETIN

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Brent Howell, Editor

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INTERMOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP
June 8-11, 1972
Ghost Ranch
Abiquiu, New Mexico

NORTH PACIFIC GATHERING
July 14-17, 1972
St. Martin's College
Olympia, Washington

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
August 13-17, 1972
St. Mary's College
Moraga, California

The War Is Not Winding Down

The war is not winding down, nor is it ending. President Nixon has been telling the country that it is, but let us look at the facts.

During the 1968 campaign, Nixon promised, if elected, to end the war. He said he had a secret plan to do so. Almost a year later, he revealed that his plan was "Vietnamization."

Vietnamization does not mean ending the war. It means "changing the color of the corpses," as Ambassador Bunker put it. Asians are to go on fighting Asians. The war is to continue until the corrupt, undemocratic government of President Thieu is firmly established. Many observers believe the Thieu government would collapse without U.S. tax dollars and military aid.

Vietnamization has widened the war to include Cambodia. The President felt Cambodia should be aligned on our side. He involved it in the war "to save American lives." Today, like Vietnam it is a wartorn country, and most of it ironically is held by the communists.

Vietnamization has escalated the war in Laos. Laotians are now subjected to more U.S. bombing than ever before. More than 50,000 peasants who farmed the Plain of Jars are either dead or refugees from B-52 bombers. All their villages lie in ruins. "This is where the war is now being fought," said a CBS correspondent when finally permitted to visit Laos.

Vietnamization means more fighting for the South Vietnamese. Their casualties now equal approximately American losses when Nixon came to office. The loss of young men and boys will weaken Vietnam for years to come.

Vietnamization has led President Nixon to renew bombing of the north. Daily reconnaissance flights (considered by some unnecessary) provoke the expected defense response from Hanoi, thus providing the pretext for retaliation. Under the euphemism of "protective reaction strikes" saturation bombing then takes place. The return of the POWs is thus postponed, while their number grows. (As this is written five more U.S. airmen are reported to have been captured.)

In conclusion, which shall prevail, the illusion or the truth? The ILLUSION: Vietnamization equals ending the war. The TRUTH: Vietnamization equals Asians fighting Asians to achieve a military decision favorable to the United States. The mightiest military machine in the world continues to promote and wage a war which is destroying the people, the land and the culture of three little impoverished countries in Southeast Asia.

What does this say to Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting? What less than that we should publish the truth about Vietnamization, arouse the public, and urge Richard Nixon to make good on his promise to end the war now.

J. STUART INNERST

REGIONAL REPORTS

Ted Church, Clerk of New Mexico Quarterly Meeting, announced to Executive Committee that NMQM wishes to discontinue its relationship to Pacific Yearly Meeting in 1973 and requested consultation with a committee of PYM. Executive Committee agreed that the Consultation Committee on Organization should meet with the Quarter and work out details, which will involve statistics and finance.

New Mexico Quarter will meet May 21. The Intermountain Fellowship will meet June 8-11.

Arline Hobson, Clerk of Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting, stated that the main interest of AHYM is to strengthen its structure and that this may be facilitated by joining with New Mexico Quarter and others in the Southwest Fellowship. She said Arizona Friends will continue with PYM until they feel the time is right for changing.

Howard Richards, Clerk of Willamette Quarterly Meeting, announced a Northwest Gathering of Friends July 14-18 in Washington. He said there is a possibility at that time a decision to set a cut-off date from relating to PYM may be made.

He said that Willamette and Northwest Quarters are interested in continuing to use the PYM Discipline and Bulletin and have expressed their desire for a gradual, not an abrupt, break. Eugene and Corvallis Monthly Meetings are in favor of dividing now from PYM. He said that PYM Nominating Committee needs to take these sentiments into account.

Alice Miles, Clerk of Northwest Quarterly Meeting, concurred with Howard Richards. She welcomed visitors to their Quarterly Meeting on April 22.

Eleanor Foster, Clerk of College Park Quarterly Meeting, reported that CPQM is sponsoring the sailing of the Phoenix in August, the bringing of issues of life style to the Quarter through M&O and renewed emphasis on visitation within the Quarter.

DORM COUNSELORS

Young Friends, young couples and people who like young people are invited to serve as dorm counselors in the Junior Friends' dorm at Yearly Meeting. Dorm counselors will receive free room at Yearly Meeting, having to pay only for registration and meals. If you wish to be a dorm counselor, indicate it on your registration form, and notify Barb and Ed Janoe, Junior Friends Advisors, 2517 NE 20th, Portland OR 97212.

The Junior Friends program will include sports, singing, improvisational theatre, dancing, silent walks and getting acquainted groupings at the first meetings.

WEDDINGS

JANOE-GARDNER. Barbara Gardner and Ed Janoe were married on April 2, 1972, at their new home, 2517 NE 20th, Oregon, in a Meeting for Worship attended by many Friends of Multnomah Meeting. The wedding was filmed and will be included in a short narrative-documentry film about Multnomah Meeting entitled, "A Meeting of Friends." The Janoes are Junior Friends' Advisers for the 1972 sessions of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

BUSCH-LANGSTON. Richard Alan Busch and Lewise Langston were married on March 4, 1972, in the chapel of All Saints Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills, where Richard Alan Busch was formerly Rector. Lewise is a member of Orange Grove Meeting. The couple is living at 485 Stanford Drive, Claremont, CA 91711.

INTERMOUNTAIN

Ghost Ranch at Abiquiu, New Mexico, will again be the site of Intermountain Friends Fellowship. The 1972 session will be held June 8-11.

Rate per person is $23.25, which includes three nights' lodging and meals beginning with an evening meal on June 8 and ending with a noon meal on June 11. A half-rate has been established for children nine years old and younger.

Registration forms, which were scheduled to be sent out in mid-April, are to be returned by late May.

Co-chairmen for the 1972 session are Thornton Price and Mary Lou Coppock of Phoenix Friends Meeting. Program suggestions, which have been encouraged, may be sent to Mary Lou Coppock, 6620 E. Culver, Scottsdale AZ 85257.

Mary Minor reports that Intermountain Friends Fellowship has drawn considerable interest this year.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Following is a statement adopted March 12, 1972, by the Berkeley Society of Friends:

The Berkeley Society of Friends (Quakers) welcomes the decision of the Supreme Court of the State of California outlawing the death penalty for our state. We are appalled by current attempts to reverse the Supreme Court decision and hope, on the contrary, that a similar decision, valid for the entire country, will be adopted by the United States Supreme Court.

Our opposition to the death penalty parallels Friends' historic testimony against war. With Friends everywhere, we believe in "that of God in every man." This belief implies the inviolability of all human life and faith in the potential redemption of every human being, no matter how detestably he or she may have acted.

We are unable to assign any weight to reasons which have been brought forth in favor of keeping the death penalty, such as its alleged deterrent effect on potential murders. We do subscribe whole-heartedly to the arguments in favor of abolition: its inherent cruelty, its irreversibility in the case of a judicial error, its preferential use against economically and socially less privileged members of society, its demoralizing effect on those charged with its execution.

In our visions we see, and we believe in the realization of, a system of justice for all, in which the fundamental dignity of each person is respected and his potential for resuming a responsible place in society is recognized. In such a system there is no place for the taking of human life by the state for any reason.

CORRECTIONS

Remember the article comparing the situations of Singapore and Hong Kong? It was written by Madge Seaver, not by Ben Seaver.

Bellingham Worship Group people were possibly astonished to read in a recent Friends Bulletin that their numbers had grown to 100 and that their Worship Group is only three years old. The Worship Group dates back to the early 1950s and is attended by fewer than 100 persons. It's a Re-evaluation Counselling group in Bellingham that has grown to 100 in three years.

POSITION

NEEDED by September 1 -- Mature married couple without children to serve for two-year appointment as Directors of the Casa de los Amigos (Friends House) in Mexico City. Maintenance provided. If interested, write Jean Duckles, Ignacio Mariscal 132, Mexico 1 D.F.

A Very Special Contribution

The idea is exciting -- one that warrants the most careful consideration of Friends. The potential is for another kind of world. The problems, immense. The demands, hard and sacrificial, and the opportunities soul-raising. The alternatives? There aren't any -- really.

The idea is a Friends World Committee Project: the One Percent More Fund, also known as the Right Sharing of World Resources, was activated by the FWC Conference at Guilford College in 1967. Friends are asked to contribute One Percent More of their after-tax income to world development -- a practical testimony to simplicity and sharing. And survival.

What was projected in 1967 survives today with a sense of urgency and a new commitment. A pessimist might say that if every Friend in the world contributed One Percent More, the sum would be infinitesimal compared to need. But Friends are old hands at taking first steps, acting with faith and creativity, pointing directions that move toward broad social change.

Many Friends have spoken to the Right Sharing of World Resources. Some of their comments below put the problem into perspective.

Gilbert White, speaking at a consultation on "Right Sharing of World Resources" last October, said that the world development picture is not very promising at present and asked how affluent Americans are going to go on "living in a world society in which a very large proportion of the population is expecting . . . to maintain itself at levels of say $200 or $500 per capita . . . I would suggest that at the present time on the world scene we, as a world society in the making, are very reluctant to face up to this issue.

"We can talk very easily about the simplification of life styles. I don't see much of it going on in society. Friends have a very special contribution, I think . . . to work, on the one hand, with people who are trying to forge a new kind of development, goals and methods in low income countries and, on the other hand, arrive at some really radical readjustment in style of life at home."

At the same consultation, John Sexton, who has been staffing the One Percent More Program, raised the important question: "Above all, how do we effectively communicate with each other so as to bear witness to the 'whole' world? We must get on with the job and find the resources spiritual, factual, and economic that are needed. We must call for an every member commitment. We must release more internes. We need an academic input of knowledge and resources through symposiums and publications that will spread the challenge."

Ronald Probasco, an Arizona Friend, traveling in the Internes for Development Program to interpret goals, says that no human being would starve if people were willing to share. "We must be willing to commit ourselves to an income level that doesn't require us to have money to be spent on luxury items but on necessities for survival . . . Tens of thousands of young children starve to death in Pakistan and India . . but we are not really willing to give up one percent of our (national) GNP to help feed our own people or those of underdeveloped countries."

Donald Baker, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, puts it this way: "Several things are clear now that were not generally recognized even a few years ago. We are on the space ship Earth together and it has limits beyond which we may not pass and still live . . . If the peoples of Africa and Asia and Latin America adopt the standard of living of the United States, we are finished. Any belief that each person is in some sence a child of God . . . leads only to one conclusion: the necessity of sharing . . ."

"Not only must we give of our surplus money, we must give of that which we have not hitherto thought of as surplus by cutting down on our own extravagant standard of living. I do not use the word must to mean that I think it would be a nice thing to do; by must I mean that this course is imposed on us by the laws which govern this universe."

John Sexton suggests the following Query: What has your meeting done in the four years since 1967 to implement the way forward suggested by Denis Barritt? (See "Break the New Ground" with essay by Denis Barritt on "Right Sharing of World Resources" prepared for 1967 Conference.)

Is there a Quaker study group at work on the problem of Right Sharing of World Resources?

Are cooperative efforts being undertaken with the United Nations, World Council of Churches, Roman Catholic organizations to improve conditions in needy countries?

Is your meeting showing this concern in public with the help of the Quaker United Nations Office, Friends Committee on National Legislation and other Friend agencies?

Have the implications of the world's needs had an impact on your life style?

Are you encouraging young people to undertake a significant period of service through Quaker and other volunteer organizations?

The annual statement for 1971 of the Right Sharing of World Resources reports modest funds for these purposes:

Chawama Self-Help Housing, Zambia; Chorti Indian Resettlement, Guantemala; Hlekweni Rual Training, Rhodesia; and in Kenya, the Friends World College, Partnership for Productivity Program, and the Kalokol Technical Institute. The budget also includes Interpretation, Communication, Education (I.C.E.)

Just as the Friends World Committee embraces Friends meetings with different points of view, so do the funds and oversight of these projects come from various kinds of meetings. The 1971 annual statement lists Pacific Yearly Meeting with $770.45 in One Percent More giving. Largest contributors were Philadelphia Yearly Meeting with $16,441.71 and Baltimore Yearly Meeting, $5,181.44.

"One Percent More" after taxes for Pacific Yearly Meeting funds should be sent to Robert Young, Treasurer, 535 Fremont Drive, Pasadena, CA 91103.

Further information is available from Robert S. Vogel, Convenor, PYM Representative to Friends World Committee. Address 1678 Casitas Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103.

Friends are urged to read again the quotes above and to weigh their decisions carefully and prayerfully in the light of what other Friends have made so clear.

A non-Quaker quote might be in order, too. Alfred M. Worden, U.S. astronaut, Apollo 15 mission, speaks from that experience: "I think once you've seen the earth from out there and you realize how fragile the whole thing is you realize that people must be concerned about everybody in the world."

One Per cent More might be summed up as Simplicity, Sharing, Survival -- key words making a circle. Friends have an historic opportunity to point the way to ever-enlargement of that circle and to bring within its bounds ever-increasing numbers of people from both our affluent and non-affluent societies.

ELINOR ASHKENAZY

SHORT NOTES

Summer school at John Woolman School will be different this year. Three courses are being offered for credit toward high school graduation. Don Smith will teach "Man and Nature in America," which will explore the conflict between the older agrarian dream and the rise of the city. Barbara French will teach a course in drawing and design and also work with people in a variety of crafts projects. Nancy Burgess will teach dance classes and related activities. Other events are on tap. More information is available from Mary Jorgenson at (415) 526-1860 or from John Woolman School, Route 1, Box J-26, Nevada City, CA 95959 . . . .

Mary Jorgenson will be directing John Woolman School's Work Camp, scheduled June 17-24. She says the camp will be Friends' oriented, giving a chance for families to combine a nice vacation with accomplishing some projects for school . . . .

Pendle Hill's summer sessions will include a session on China. Rhoads Murphey, co-leading with O. Edmund Clubb, expects to visit Mainland China in May. The Quaker Festival of the Arts is designed to appeal to artists and craftsmen of both professional and amateur standing. The sessions also will include a Creative Dance Workshop and a seminar on "The Shattering and Healing Light." The sessions run from July 2 to August 5 . . . .

YFNA

The Young Friends of North America will have a summer gathering August 27-September 2, 1972, in Gowen, Michigan.

Penny Bliss wrote to say that activities "will focus around affirmation, refreshment, silence, sound, centering, recognition, acknowledgement, re-creation and waiting on the Holy Spirit."

Definition of a Young Friend, she says, "is and always will be a little hazy around the edges. In general it includes 18-year-olds on up to those still young-at-heart."

Further information and registration forms are available from Penny Bliss at 4918 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19139.

(Copies of "Right Sharing of World Resources" by Denis Barritt are available as a separate reprint for 25 cents from the AFSC Book Store, 980 No. Fair Oaks, Pasadena, CA 91103 or from the Friends World Committee for Consultation, 152-A No. 15th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.)

Hong Kong Views of the Visit

Judging from Hong Kong, the mass media coverage of Nixon's visit to China must have set some kind of record. For months before, no day passed without some mention in the papers and on radio and TV news programs of the coming event, the effect the announcement had already had on world affairs, the reaction to it by allies and enemies of each side and the hopes and fears about what might come out of the meeting itself. Then when the great day finally arrived, traffic-stopping crowds gathered outside TV shops to watch the program through store windows. All four Hong Kong TV stations repeated the program at least three times. Every newspaper, Chinese and English, devoted its entire front page to the story, and in the South China Morning Post it occupied the first, third and last pages. This same coverage continued for the entire week. Every evening the days events were gone over in an hour TV program, with local reporters as commentators a la Cronkite. Even now in the second week reverberations continue on a somewhat diminished scale, speculations about the meaning of how the principals acted and what they said, and what the communique said and did not say.

On the whole, reactions here were favorable. One editorial did speak of the communique as "long on generalities and short on specifics" but went on to claim that it represented "a concrete step in the long march toward normalization of ties between the two countries." Reports generally credited Mrs. Nixon with a first rate job of public relations in her contacts with the Chinese people. No commentator here took exception to the boastfulness of Nixon's statements that "they held the fate of the world's people in their hands" or that "this was the week that changed the world." Nor did anyone point to the highly unlikely and certainly unprovable nature of that part of the communique which read, "all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Straits maintain that there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China."

This statement plus the U.S. affirmation of its "interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves" promising the ultimate "withdrawal of all US forces and military installations from Taiwan," lends itself to two very different interpretations. One claims that the statements indicate the Chinese government assured Nixon no force would be used to "liberate Taiwan," and therefore U.S. military aid is no longer needed and the 1954 Mutual Defense Pact can safely be abrogated. For the other interpretation the labelling of the withdrawal of U.S. forces as an "ultimate objective" indicates that it will only occur in the indefinitely distant future, probably after "a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question." Also this view sees the promise "to progressively reduce its forces and military installations on Taiwan" as safely hedged by the final phrase "as the tension in the area diminishes." It would seem that the language used allows the section to mean as much or as little as future U.S. policy requires. Even the US position on the statement that "all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan straits maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China" turns out to be equivocal. According to the communique, the U.S. "acknowledges" this Chinese position and "does not challenge" it, but nowhere does the U.S. accept it. Probably this kind of vagueness is necessary so long as the Republic of China is recognized as the legitimate government in Taipei.

Some commentators say the U.S. statement on Taiwan and Nixon's acceptance of Chou En-lai's five principles of coexistence, with no balancing political concessions from the Chinese, as a victory for Chinese diplomacy. Others, seeing the value of U.S. concessions as uncertain, felt the importance of the summit meeting lay in the fact that it had occurred at all, after a generation of unmitigated hostility, and in the promise of further development of political contact as well as the opening of cultural and trade relations.

Hong Kong, of course, had its own personal interest in this historic meeting and its outcome. The day after the communique was published, the local stock market fell sharply, though nothing like the tailspin in the Taipei market. Business optimism quickly reasserted itself. The chairman of the General Chamber of Commerce said that though he could not forsee any rapid increase in trade between the U.S. and China in the next five years, "Hong Kong would benefit as a transit point as increasing numbers of tourists would be allowed to visit China." An editorial in the South China Morning Post, the establishment paper here, struck a reassuring note:

"Hong Kong should be satisfied with recent indications that China attaches a fairly low priority to our future. Taiwan's status is not likely to be changed overnight and even if it were possible to see the time when it could be peace-

fully reunited with the mainland there is good reason to believe that the advantage China derives from Hong Kong in its present form far outweighs the value of acquiring one more overcrowded, problem-filled city."

This seems a realistic appraisal. Hong Kong is China's largest single export market, the figure last year being almost U.S. $500 million. The Chinese government controls a number of large retail outlets in Hong Kong, as well as a network of wholesalers, banks, movie houses, insurance companies, etc. The profits from these enterprises plus remittances from local Chinese to families on the mainland, plus overseas remittances channelled through Hong Kong, all add to China's foreign exchange earnings an amount estimated to be almost U.S. $700 million. China's export surplus to Hong Kong finances its deficit with the industrial countries of Europe, as well as its wheat imports. Hong Kong's present status obviously serves a very important role for China.

The South China Morning Post editorial continues:

"We must bear in mind that a large proportion of Hong Kong's people are refugees with unhappy memories of the past. It is, of course, true that the specific reasons that prompt mainlanders to flee nowadays will not be affected by China's improving relations with the United States; frustration over job opportunities, a regimented life, compulsory farm labor, and inadequate education are likely to persist."

According to recent reports, the number of refugees escaping to Hong Kong this year was the highest since the big exodus in 1962. The number was estimated at somewhere between 12,500 and 15,000, more than twice the numbers in recent years. No one seems to know whether this increase is due to new difficulties in China, or a relaxation of the Chinese border guard.

The next paragraph of the editorial is especially interesting, striking so far as I know, a new note recognizing the potentialities of the Chinese system:

"But is it too much to hope that if present conditions in China continue, the movement of people may become two way, and that with rising living standards, increasing pride in the country's achievements, better opportunities for qualified professional men and technicians we may see, in time, a small but significant exodus in reverse?"

It is obvious that this hopeful note sees improvement in terms of our own values and not in terms of China's announced revolutionary goals. It also ignores the fact that there has always been some small stream of overseas Chinese returning to the motherland.

Finally the editorial concludes:

"as the need to import capital equipment from the outside world increases, the value of the Hong Kong dollar to China will grow; and it seems fair to add that come what may, as long as Hong Kong proves useful to the Chinese government and people, its special status and relationship is not likely to be changed. (This, however, presupposes that no one here takes steps to alter the constitutional position.)"

That last bracketed sentence is a warning to any Chinese who thinks that a city whose population is more than 98 percent Chinese ought to have a Chinese government. It probably explains why there is so little apparent unrest under a government, which in 1971 had a budget surplus of H.K. $700 million, while its teachers and nurses government employes, had to fight to keep their salaries from being cut.

BEN SEAVER

BIRTHS

To Charyl and Richard Barnar of San Francisco Meeting on February 22, 1972, a daughter, Amy Elizabeth, 6 pounds, 6 ounces and 19½ inches long.

To Susan and John Voorhees of Palo Alto Meeting on February 12, 1972, twin daughters, Sara and Anneke.

MEETINGS

Palo Alto Meeting has planned a series of fellowship-worship groups, beginning in the latter part of April. Meeting once a week for one or two hours in Friends' homes, five to eight Friends to a group, the Meeting hopes to deepen fellowship. "A tentative goal would be to create a situation in which any desired subject could be discussed in an atmosphere of caring and concern for each other."

Honolulu Meeting scheduled a Meeting for Worship at the Hickam Air Force Base's main gate on Sunday, March 26. Purpose was "to awaken our conscience and the conscience of others to the fact that the war still goes on in Indo-China while moral concern at home in the U.S. lulls." Two signs were used to explain Friends' presence at the gate — a large one saying "Quaker Silent Worship. Feel free to join in" and a small one quoting George Fox.

On Mitigating Hard Conditions

If you are a child in Hong Kong living with your parents and three brothers and sisters in a room 120 square feet in size, where do you study? The Homework Room is one answer. There are few other resources: several small libraries and social centers, stair cases with a light bulb. I have seen children studying on the sidewalk under a street light while selling newspapers.

Hong Kong Meeting has sponsored a Homework Room in Lo Fu Ngam, one of the old Resettlement Estates in Kowloon, for a year and a half. We first visited it when there had been a gang fight in Lo Fu Ngam leading to a death. Tai Ming-shan, the college student employed to supervise the children's homework, felt that our children coming from other blocks in the Resettlement Estate were in danger. For several weeks various members of the Meeting took turns visiting the Homework Room until Tai Ming-shan's confidence was restored. I enjoyed our visits.

I can still remember my first impression. I had read statistics about welfare and housing in Hong Kong resettlement estates. A grim, depressing picture! But when we climbed the eight flights of damp concrete up to a cold grey room with several large tables and little stools for about 40 children, we found a cheerful, lively scene. Except for one table of Primary VI girls in school blazers, all quietly intent on their work, and a few older boys, also working in silent concentration, it was a room full of smooth dark heads and slender bodies in ceaseless motion. There was a great deal of group chanting of lessons, children moving about to discuss their work, subdued laughter and even an occasional merry-faced mischief maker.

All ages are welcomed. Tai Ming-shan specifies only that the student brings a bookbag with school books. Some of the Primary I children are so small that they have to kneel or crouch on their stools to reach the table. If I lean over the birdlike shoulders of these mites, I often see them writing English exercises in a beautiful script.

Last summer there were two changes in the management of the Homework Room. Of the three Friends who had taken most of the responsibility for its management, one returned to England on leave, another returned to the U.S., and the third, Sheila Hewer, a teacher at the Diocesan Girls School, had to fly home to England on account of her father's serious illness. I agreed to carry on.

The other change was that while we had originally been sub-tenants of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association, a Community Chest Agency, we now had to apply for tenancy directly to the Resettlement Department. I was plunged into a first-hand encounter with Hong Kong bureaucracy. An inflexible following of the letter may be a characteristic of all bureaucracies. In a colony it is particularly rigid, since there are no constituencies to bring pressure to break through regulations.

Three government departments had to rule on our little project. The first was the Resettlement Estate, which made no objection, and passed on our application to the Social Welfare Department. At first this department turned us down, because we were using the rooftop for only a few hours a day. At a meeting with Mrs. Mak, an officer of the Social Welfare Department, we agreed to have two sessions or six hours a day, adding a recreation period in both the afternoon and evening session. Then, in suspense, we waited for a decision. The Meeting quickly agreed to more than double its Homework Room budget, for we would also need a worker to keep the room clean and in repair. Finally Mrs. Mak called and gave a favorable answer. For one Hong Kong dollar a month, we had a rooftop room of our own.

Our next problem concerned Tai Ming-shan, the tall young Chinese college student, whose parents had been refugees in that great refugee wave of the fifties. I had been impressed from the first with his relationship to the children. He could be firm to the point of sternness, but he let the children feel his friendly concern. Now he found that he could not undertake a six-hour schedule along with his college studies. I went to the Boys' and Girls' Club for help. They hire a great many young recreation leaders and had many more applicants than they needed. They gave me five folders.

Interviewing five young men, serious, even anxious, about a job with no future, earning only H.K. $500 per month (about U.S. $85) gave me an insight into the lot of the many young Chinese, who either could not qualify for the university, or were too poor to try.

While I was pondering these applications, Tai Ming-shan and a college classmate, Cheng Sik-lam, came to see me about the Homework Room.

They proposed to share the job. I agreed, relieved that we would have an experienced person in charge. I was thankful that I didn't have to make a difficult choice of one of the five applicants.

In the meantime about a dozen members of the Meeting spent several evenings in the August heat painting over the grey cement. The fresh yellow and white paint, splashed on amateurishly by fathers and mothers and their teen-aged children, looked like a new start. Forgetting about inflexible bureaucracies, I expected that the Homework Room would open when schools opened in the first week of September. In that hopeful frame of mind, Tai Ming-shan, Cheng Sik-lam and I climbed the stairs near the end of August, to look over our domain. A new padlock barred our way, and continued to do so until the middle of October. The final barrier was the authority of the Urban Council, the ultimate voice in all affairs concerning resettlement estates. While we waited for their approval, we telephoned, wrote and called on anyone we thought might intervene on behalf of children with nowhere to study. The most that could be wrung from inflexible officials was getting the key two weeks before the official date of the first of December.

Now I visit the Homework Room, wondering whether Friends with their few resources are doing the best for these children. We are mitigating one of the hard conditions of their lives. Should we instead press for more housing which will provide room for study? Which would I want if I were a child in Lo Fu Ngam? Perhaps it's a case of that hard saying: "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

MADGE SEAVER

MEETINGS

Peace Committee of San Francisco Meeting has been working with other groups collecting signatures for a November ballot initiative giving Californians opportunity to express opposition to the American presence in Southeast Asia. Vigils were held in San Francisco the week before Easter and Friends passed out literature at community churches on Easter.

Sacramento and Davis Friends Meetings along with AFSC sponsored "Struggle for Justice" on April 8 at Fremont Presbyterian Church in Sacramento. Jan Marinissen, Criminal Justice Secretary for the AFSC, addressed a morning session and was followed by a panel discussion on the state of criminal justice and penal institutions (and a search for solutions).

MEETINGS

Santa Fe Meeting recently extended financial and other kinds of help to 50 students and teachers of crafts in the Household Livelihood Program. The Meeting consulted with Bob Gray and Frank Sifuentes of the AFSC's Southwest Regional Office on Chicano assistance projects. One of the projects was a free clinic to which the Meeting contributed.

Albuquerque Meeting has undergone an increase in size and in the vitality of its committees. The peace and Social Concerns Committee has turned its attention to criminal and social justice. Bill Schaab headed a citizen's committee asking for penal reform. Changes in the structure of the Meetinghouse have been undertaken.

Las Vegas Worship Group has reported a feeling of rebirth in the Quaker spirit.

Los Alamos Worship Group holds Meetings for Worship on Monday nights.

Gallup Preparative Meeting holds Meeting for Worship regularly at 9:15 each Sunday morning, with attendance running between three and eight persons. A newspaper ad has helped some visitors find them.

Socorro Worship Group is now a Preparative Meeting. Socorro Friends have urged Friends from other parts to visit them.

WEDDINGS

LYON-HAHN. Ellen M. Hahn and Edward B. Lyon, both of Delta Meeting, were married under the care of the Meeting on Thanksgiving morning, November 25, 1971, in Morris Chapel at the University of Pacific in Stockton, California. "It was a time of recollection of the meaning of marriage and of a drawing into unity, experienced especially by members of the Meeting. Later celebration took the form of Thanksgiving dinner served as a communal meal in their new home."

PEOPLE

Jon and Becca Schuck are the new caretakers for the Orange Grove Meetinghouse. Jon hopes to pursue a career in architectural design. Becca is a bonded cashier and is interested in the education of young children . . . . Ann Salyer and Olga Myers are collecting recipes and accompanying anecdotes for "The Honolulu Friends Cookbook " . . . .

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